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Environment Department Seeks Participants for Wastewater Committee

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is seeking individuals to assist the Department and serve as members of the newly created Wastewater Technical Advisory Committee. This committee, recently established by the legislature, will be made up of qualified individuals appointed by the NMED Secretary. Its purpose is to assist the Secretary in setting standards regarding wastewater treatment and disposal technologies.

“Illegal or improperly installed septic systems are a huge problem in this state,” said NMED Secretary Ron Curry. “They are one of the biggest threats to our important groundwater resources. The work of this committee will help NMED combat this problem as well as address other wastewater issues around the state.”

“The work of NMED and this group will be critical for the future of New Mexico,” said Senator Carlos Cisneros, the sponsor of the legislation creating the committee. “Water quality and quantity is of utmost importance to us all and this committee will help us protect the resource in both regards.”

The committee is charged with advising the NMED Secretary by providing standardized objective evaluations of wastewater treatment and disposal technologies, and maintaining a current list of approved wastewater technologies.

The committee is to be made of five members to be appointed by the NMED Secretary each with varying qualifications. These include:

1. A wastewater system engineer with at least ten years experience in wastewater system design and construction.
2. A faculty member from a college or university in New Mexico. This person must have at minimum a master’s degree in biological science, microbiology, soil science or engineering and

a minimum of ten years of work or academic experience with wastewater treatment or wastewater treatment facility management.

3. A representative from the New Mexico State University water utilities technical assistance program.
4. One class IV certified wastewater operator with at least ten years of experience.
5. A representative from the New Mexico Home Builders Association.

Those interested in serving on the Wastewater Technical Assistance Advisory Committee should contact Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director at (505) 827-0314.

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